NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Vol. XXVII, No. 12 Bethesda, Maryland 20014 December 1972

New Program Initiated in Health Science Professional Education

The National Library of Medicine has awarded a contract to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) for the establishment of a collaborative program to develop a national network for the education of health-science professionals.

The AAMC will be responsible for bringing together faculty representatives from medical and dental educational institutions (through the Association of American Dental Schools) and representatives of biomedical disciplinary societies in order to identify, develop, produce, and utilize: 1) educational materials of wide acceptability in the biomedical health professional area; 2) educational materials of broad usefulness for educating the public; 3) systems to provide optimum evaluation of student acceptance and achievement, and assessment of the cost-effectiveness of new educational methodologies; and 4) institutional resources for facilitating the development and use of new educational methodologies.

Implementation of these tasks will require the development of an Educational Resources Program in the AAMC. Planned as a five-year program, this will employ the services of staff members of the AAMC and the AADS with specific responsibilities in such areas as audiovisual module development, computer development for education and assessment, and collaboration with NLM in the development of a communications network between academic medical centers and practicing physicians.

NLM will provide resources for technical assistance in developing and testing new educational materials and means of communications, and for accessing, indexing, and cataloging educational materials. Resources will also be available for developing communication facilities for disseminating materials to institutions.

The initial phase of the program will be 24 months in length, and will be devoted to staff development, and to inventorying and cataloging existing multimedia materials.

GPO to Increase Prices

The following letter was recently sent to printing and publishing officials of the Federal Government by H. J. Humphrey, Acting Public Printer:

"On October 15, 1972, I approved recommendations from the Government Printing Office/Public Documents Pricing Committee to increase the public sales prices on all new periodicals and subscription services and renewals as soon as practical.

(Continued on Page 2)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
Public Health Service
National Institutes of Health

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

Martin M. Cummings, M.D. Director, NLM

Robert B. Mehnert, Chief, Office of Public Information and Publications Management

Ann R. Lindsay Editor (301-496-6308)
Roger L. Gilkeson Assistant Editor (301-496-3661)
Daniel Carangi Graphics

Published monthly by the Office of Public Information, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, for health science libraries, the health professions, and news media.

8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland 20014

(GPO, from Page 1)

I also reviewed the Committee's recommendations to increase the public sales prices on all new and reprinted publications subject to modification in selected instances. The public sales prices of publications now a part of the inventory of the Superintendent of Documents will not be increased.

"Section 1708 of Title 44, U.S. Code, states, in part: 'The price at which additional copies of Government publications are offered for sale to the public shall be based on the cost as determined by the Public Printer plus 50 percent.' Heretofore sales prices were based on a formula last revised in 1968 when all costs were significantly less than they are today. In addition to increases in almost every element of cost, the new postage rates, announced by the United States Postal Service in May of 1971, have had a tremendous impact on the resources and operations of the Public Documents Department. The United States Postal Service no longer provides for negotiated rates or extends preferential treatment in the handling of mail for Federal agencies. To compensate for the increased postage rates alone, I found it necessary to request from the Congress more than $12 million as a deficiency appropriation for fiscal year 1972. In an economy that has seen sharp increases in wages and mounting costs for materials and other services over the past five years, the rise in prices for United States Government publications was inevitable.

"Historically, the United States Congress has expected that the publication sales program of the Government Printing Office be self-sustaining. I have approved a recommendation for an interim price increase pending the development of a new pricing formula. In my opinion, this is the only way the sales program of the Government Printing Office can avoid being subsidized by the taxpayer."

A special Publications Supplement, dated December 1972, has been mailed to *NLM News* readers. It contains detailed information on publication prices and ordering and complaint procedures.

Board of Regents Meets

On November 20, Dr. Jack M. Layton, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, opened the forty-third meeting of the advisory body by introducing new Regent Dr. William W. Hubbard (*News*, November 1972). Dr. Hubbard may be termed a renewed Regent; he previously served on the Board from 1963 to 1967, and was twice elected Chairman.

In the course of his report to the Regents, NLM Director Martin M. Cummings reviewed efforts to extend the Medical Library Assistance Act (which expires June 30, 1973).

(Continued on Page 3)

(Board of Regents, from Page 2)

He described actions and prospects in the area of copyright litigation, noting that, in addition to the *amicus curiae* briefs submitted by the American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, and Medical Library Association, there have been submissions from 14 additional organizations supporting NLM, including a number of medical institutions and several scientific societies.

The Library's Executive Officer, Kent Smith, reported on the progress of the design of the Lister Hill Center Building (*News*, August 1968). The Philadelphia firm of Carroll, Grisdale and Van Alen has been awarded the architecture and engineering (A & E) contract, with a schedule calling for final working drawings to be submitted by February 1974. It is estimated that the facility will contain 195,000 gross square feet (124,000 net), and house a workforce of 450. Personnel of the Lister Hill Center, the National Medical Audiovisual Center, the Office of Computer and Communications Systems, and Extramural Programs will occupy the new facility.

Reference Services Division

The Chief of the Division, Albert Berkowitz, discussed its organization into three sections -- Reference, Loan and Stack, and Photoduplication -- and the functions of each. The Division is the largest in Library Operations, with a staff of about 75 full- and part-time employees. In addition to traditional reference and loan functions, RSD provides MEDLINE capability for NLM users in the Reading Room, and also furnishes a wide array of audiovisual hardware and software. The Division plays two important roles within the Library Component of the Biomedical Communications Network: that of Regional Medical Library for the Mid-Atlantic Region, and that of backstop for the provision of interlibrary loans within the entire network.

MEDLINE

Davis B. McCarn, Acting Associate Director for Science Communications and Computer Engineering Services, reported that MEDLINE was averaging about 30-35 simultaneous users searching the system at an annual rate of 140,000 searches a year (compared with 24,000 demand searches annually, under MEDLARS I). Recent evaluation of MEDLINE service at user institutions shows that 80 percent of the searches are being entered by the librarians, and that 27 percent of the searches are for users in the community not ordinarily associated with the institution. About 87 percent of the users say MEDLINE is of considerable or major value in searching the literature.

Mr. McCarn described recent and projected changes in MEDLINE:

1. Addition to all citations of Journal Citation Identifier, including the International Standard Serial Number and an identifier for *AIM* journals.

2. Title search capability (by February).

3. In February, a second computer on the network at SUNY will also process MEDLINE search requests.

4. A computer-aided instruction course on how to use MEDLINE will be available next February.

(Continued on Page 5)

University-on-Loan Program

The Library's National Medical Audiovisual Center and the Office of Audiovisual Educational Development (Bureau of Health Manpower Education) cooperatively encourage educators and content specialists to spend periods of sabbatical leave at the Center in a "University-on-Loan Program" to participate in the design and development of instructional approaches and materials for health science students. Qualified individuals are usually identified by a professional organization or educational institution. These specialists play a key role in the development of prototype efforts designed to support and enhance the educational process and to be shared throughout the biomedical community. Since the program began last fall, three educators have come to NMAC to work in specific areas.

Robert D. Tschirgi, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego, spent three weeks at the Center last fall. He advised a development team in the initial design of a self-instructional unit entitled "Intracranial Fluids and Barriers-Organization of Fluid Compartments."

Karl A. Youngstrom, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy and Radiology, University of Kansas Medical Center, spent two months at NMAC. His work there centered on identifying and defining basic concepts and instructional objectives within the gross anatomy curriculum which lend themselves to communication and amplification by means of x-ray anatomical displays.

Melvin P. Mohn, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy, University of Kansas Medical Center, has just completed a six-month sabbatical at NMAC as part of the University-on-Loan Program. He served as a content advisor in the production and use of audiovisuals as they relate to the teaching of anatomy, specifically, gross anatomy. He also assisted in identifying and evaluating existing audiovisuals in this area.

Postgraduate Library Associate Training Program

Applications for NLM's Postgraduate Library Associate Training Program in Biomedical Communications are now being accepted from students who will have graduated from an accredited school of library or information science by August 1973. The program provides for one year of intensive training and education; an opportunity to attend local university courses; and experience with programs in audiovisual techniques, biomedical communications, specialized information services, grants and contracts in support of national biomedical communications, and other aspects of modern medical librarianship.

Applicants must be citizens of the United States and qualify under the Federal Civil Service regulations for appointment as a Librarian. Candidates are required to have a master's degree in Library Science and reading competence in a modern foreign language. An under-graduate degree in science is preferred but is not a requirement. Appointments are generally made at the entering salary of GS-7, $9,520. The deadline for filing applications is March 1, 1973.

Requests for application materials and further information should be directed to the Employee Development Specialist, National Library of Medicine, 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20014.

(Board of Regents, from Page 3)

New on-line services planned or already available on the network, in addition to MEDLINE, are:

1. SDILINE -- current month of *Index Medicus* on-line (available).
2. CATLINE -- monograph cataloging information on-line (January 1973).
3. SERLINE -- serial locator file on-line to locate any of 6,000 serial titles in 100 medical libraries (February 1973).
4. COMPFILE -- the remainder of the MEDLARS file (2,200 journals) for on-line searching and off-line printing of the bibliography.
5. The Office of Education's ERIC file is available on the network for MEDLINE users.
6. TOXICON - toxicology information on-line (available).
7. National Technical Information Service (NTIS) data base and Chemical Abstracts (Condensates) to be available on-line in January 1973.

(Items 5, 6, and 7 are commercially available services.)

Mr. McCarn reported to the Board the status of MEDLARS II procurement. The contract with the System Development Corporation will result in a conversion of MEDLARS I to the IBM 370/155 computer, with added capabilities in the area of vocabulary handling. The Project Control Document, which describes the schedule, has been delivered, along with a System Design Overview (a complete description, in general terms, of what the system will do) and a test plan. Preliminary testing of a minisystem will begin at the Library in January. A major problem has been that the photocomposition equipment specified for MEDLARS II (the Linotron 1010 and the Photon 713) have been judged impractical. The Joint Committee on Printing has granted permission for NLM to purchase the Photon 901, which has been performing reliably at NLM for two years.

Lister Hill Center

Mr. Albert Feiner, Director of the Lister Hill Center, reported on progress in four areas concerned with providing accessibility to health care:

(1) Computer-aided instruction (CAI) programs involving health science education material from Ohio State University, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the University of Illinois have been put on the Tymshare network to investigate the value of these programs at institutions other than those where they were developed. There has been heavy use of this service. (See *News*, August 1972.)

(2) The interactive television program in the New Hampshire-Vermont region, centered at Dartmouth Medical College, is operating successfully. Education, training, diagnosis, and treatment are all being communicated to geographically dispersed facilities via two-way television hookup.

(Continued on Page 6)

(Board of Regents, from Page 5)

(3) A contract has been awarded by LHC to the Department of Community Medicine of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine (New York City) to establish an interactive cable TV link for the predominantly elderly tenants of a 246-unit public housing project in East Harlem.

(4) The present experimental satellite communications program in Alaska has proved its value the past year in over 20 medical emergencies in outlying areas that required that a village health aide communicate promptly with a medical consultant. Initial evaluation shows that the number of health aide-doctor contacts is considerably higher at villages with satellite communications than those with conventional high-frequency radio. These frequent contacts boost the confidence of the health aide and also result in a measurable increase in his knowledge of health and first-aid techniques.

A major effort by HEW is now under way to plan for health and education experiments utilizing the ATS-F satellite. A committee of representatives of the Secretary's Office, Bureau of Health Manpower Education, Health Services and Mental Health Administration, and LHC is considering experiments proposed for the Rocky Mountain area and the Pacific Northwest (including Alaska). Contracts have been let for the initiation of this program -- two for planning, one for the purchase of prototype terminals, one for systems engineering support of the experiment planners, and one for planning the evaluation of the program (*News*, September 1972). The experiments will expand the experience presently being acquired in Alaska with the ATS-I satellite.

NMAC

Dr. Charles F. Bridgman, NMAC Director, briefed the Regents on progress in establishing the clearinghouse. NMAC relations with BHME, particularly the Bureau's Office of Audiovisual Educational Development (OAED) have been excellent in this regard. There is now a major effort to gather catalog information on the most recent available audiovisual instructional materials, with the cooperation of outside groups such as a consortium of 32 Southern medical schools now actively engaged in developing, evaluating, and sharing materials. NMAC's past experience indicates that about 90 percent of those materials considered are rejected after evaluation by peer groups. A test data file of completely evaluated citations for instructional materials will be put on the AVLINE subfile for access on-line.

As to the schedule for clearinghouse implementation, Dr. Bridgman reported that the format for citations is completed, and that the initial data for 4,000 evaluated citations will be entered into the system by May 1973. Some 400 more elaborate instructional packages will be entered by November 1973. On-line search of the AVLINE files will be available by June 1973.

Toxicology Information Program

Dr. Henry Kissman described the major objectives of the Toxicology Information Program (TIP) as building data banks of toxicological information and establishing services for the dissemination of this information to the scientific community. The former objective includes both the collection of document bases (to retrieve the location of facts) and data bases (to retrieve the facts themselves).

(Continued on Page 7)

(Board of Regents, from Page 6)

Dr. Kissman reported on several new and in-process TIP publications. He also reviewed for the Regents the development of TOXICON, and announced that some 210,000 abstracts and citations are now part of the on-line TOXICON data base. A monthly Toxicon Newsletter has been initiated for subscribers to the service, and a Toxicon User Group meeting is planned for next spring.

The Board approved a proposed policy statement governing the provision of on-line services by NLM, including program objectives, operational model, and specific responsibilities. (Copies of the policy statement are available from the Office of Public Information.)

Publications Supplement

If you have not received the Publications Supplement to this issue of the *News*, please write to NLM's Office of Public Information. The supplement provides a list of currently available NLM publications and guidelines for ordering publications from the Government Printing Office, and contains an advance order form for the 1972 *Cumulated Index Medicus* and a newly designed form for claiming publications ordered from GPO.

Annual Volumes of CuBE Available

A limited supply of annual cumulations of the *Current Bibliography of Epidemiology* for 1969, 1970, and 1971 are available without charge to libraries from the National Library of Medicine. To simplify handling, please include a self-addressed, gummed label for each volume requested (no postage necessary). Send the request with labels to:

Office of Public Information
ATTN: Publications (CuBE)
National Library of Medicine
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20014

The *Current Bibliography of Epidemiology*, formerly distributed by the American Public Health Association, is now published monthly by the National Library of Medicine and sold on subscription for $22.50 ($28.25 foreign) by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. The annual cumulation is not included in the subscription price, but must be ordered separately. The 1972 cumulation will appear in the spring of 1973; ordering information will be announced in a forthcoming issue of the *NLM News*.

DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
8600 ROCKVILLE PIKE
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF H.E.W.